**Media Release**

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**For Immediate Release**
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**OTC’s Arctic Technology Conference (ATC) Names**

**2016 Distinguished Achievement Award Recipients**

***Tulsa, OK, USA (1 September 2016) –***The Offshore Technology Conference’s (OTC) 2016 Arctic Technology Conference (ATC) has announced its 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award honorees for the Individual and the Companies, Organizations and Institutions Categories. Awardees were unanimously selected by the ATC 2016 Awards Committee, led by ATC Oversight Committee Chairman Brian Miller and OTC Board Member Norman Carnahan. ATC will recognize Göran Wilkman for Individual Achievement and the 2015 Shell Alaska Exploration Program for Companies honors. The recipients will be recognized during the ATC 2016 Distinguished Achievement Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, 25 October, during ATC in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

**ATC Distinguished Achievement Award for Individuals**
Since 1973 Göran Wilkman has been involved in all fields of the development of activities and solutions for ice-prone waters including; vessel development, Arctic and Antarctic field expeditions, operational, technical and economical consultations as well as testing of solutions both in model scale and full scale conditions.

Wilkman’s work has contributed to a number of significant developments including year round Arctic marine transport in the Pechora and Kara Seas, and the development of shallow draft icebreakers for Arctic and sub-Arctic operations.

Göran has been generous in sharing the knowledge he has gained throughout his career by publishing widely in international journals and giving presentations in many international maritime conferences. Further Wilkman has been an active supporter of ATC having prepared and published a number of papers and is a former member of the SNAME-ATC 2015 program sub-committee.

**ATC Distinguished Achievement Award for Companies, Organizations and Institutions**

The 2015 Shell Alaska Exploration Program drilled the first exploratory well in the Chukchi Sea in 25 years and overcame many obstacles and uncertainties, including challenging and changing regulatory requirements, a remote harsh environment with a limited working window, and strong stakeholder interest and influence. A historic partnership was built with the regional and village native corporations that evolved into the Arctic Inupiat Offshore (AIO) organization. This took several years of significant engagement and collaboration including scientific data collection, innovation and most importantly - listening to the local community concerns. The data from this program has been donated to credible custodians to establish critical baselines for future development. Shell sought alignment on offshore exploration and development while valuing native subsistence usage, the environment, communities and local economies.

2015 operations in the Arctic addressed learnings from incidents to create a culture of “Operating Exceptionally Well” and to successfully drill an exploration well during a single season. Shell utilized robust planning, response capability and mobilization of the necessary infrastructure to receive approval to drill in the Arctic and safely complete the program in 2015. The program addressed the current day expectations of regulators and was praised by AIO, who joined Shell as a partner in promoting the safe development of the Arctic.

The 2016 Arctic Technology Conference (ATC) Committee looks forward to honoring the 2016 Distinguished Achievement Award recipients in St. John’s in October. The Distinguished Achievement Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, 25 October 2016, 1210–1345, at the St. John’s Convention Centre. Registration is open and tickets are available at [www.ArcticTechnologyConference.org](http://www.ArcticTechnologyConference.org).

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**About ATC**

ATC is a part of the Offshore Technology Conference portfolio of events. In its fifth year, ATC brings together Arctic industry leaders and professionals from around the globe. It is the world’s most focused comprehensive technical conference and exhibition for Arctic E&P professionals. ATC attracts an average of 700+ attendees from 26 countries. ATC’s technical program features international scientists and engineers sharing their ongoing research and development and execution experiences in the key areas of Geology and Geophysics; Exploration and Production; Physical Environment; Logistics and Marine Transport; and Regulatory, Environment and Social Responsibility. It also includes Panel Sessions, as well as Topical Breakfasts and Luncheons offering insights from top executives and technical experts into Arctic themes, both from a technical as well as a socio-economic point of view. The ATC exhibition hall boasts exhibitors showcasing the very latest innovations, products and services.

ATC is supported and endorsed by 14 of the world’s leading scientific organizations and is managed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

**Sponsoring Organizations**

* American Association of Petroleum Geologists
* American Institute of Chemical Engineers
* American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers
* American Society of Civil Engineers
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* Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers — Oceanic Engineering Society
* Marine Technology Society
* Society of Exploration Geophysicists
* Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration
* Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
* Society of Petroleum Engineers
* The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society

**Endorsing Organizations**

* International Association of Drilling Contractors
* Petroleum Equipment & Services Association